

Amendment No. 1 to SB0883

Crowe
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 883*

House Bill No. 1320

by deleting the preamble of the bill in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, half of all pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended; and

WHEREAS, a broad range of acceptable and effective contraceptives can reduce the chance of unintended pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, a client-centered approach affords women the opportunity to select the contraceptive method that is most appropriate based on her personal preferences and medical needs; and

WHEREAS, Voluntary Reversible Long-Acting Contraception (VRLAC), also known as Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs), are extremely effective at preventing pregnancy, are extremely safe, and can provide protection for up to ten years; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about seven percent of women aged fifteen to forty-four currently use VRLACs or LARCs; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, where there has been a program to make VRLACs or LARCs more widely accessible, the state reported a forty-eight percent decline in birthrates among teens and a forty-eight percent decline in teen abortions; and

WHEREAS, high upfront costs, a lack of adequate training for healthcare professionals, administrative barriers, and insufficient information and education have made VRLACs or LARCs more difficult to access than other forms of birth control; and

WHEREAS, this law is enacted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of women and families by making VRLACs or LARCs more accessible; now, therefore,

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting Section 2 and substituting instead the following:

Amendment No. 1 to SB0883

Crowe
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 883*

House Bill No. 1320

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Family planning centers" means health clinics that receive funding under the Title X program overseen by the U.S. department of health and human services, Pub. L. 91-572, as well as other health clinics that the commissioner of health finds are qualified and willing to perform comprehensive family planning services; and

(2) "Voluntary reversible long-acting contraception" or "VRLACs," also known as "long-acting reversible contraceptives" or "LARCs," means highly effective methods of contraception that last for several years and are easy to use. VRLACs include, but are not limited to, intrauterine contraceptives and birth control implants.

(b)

(1) The department of health shall administer a program to improve access to VRLACs for women.

(2) The program shall include:

(A) Training for family planning centers regarding contraceptive methods, including VRLACs, client-centered and non-coercive counseling strategies, and managing side effects;

(B) Training for all public health facilities to ensure that they are qualified and able to provide forms of contraception, including VRLACs;

(C) Assistance to family planning centers regarding administrative or technical issues such as coding, billing, pharmacy rules, and clinic management related to the provision of forms of contraception, including VRLACs and other methods;

(D) General financial support to expand the capacity of family planning centers to provide VRLACs, to train and staff providers, and to keep supplies in stock and available for same-day access by patients;

(E) Education and outreach to the public about the availability, effectiveness, and safety of contraception including VRLAC;

(F) A study of making as many contraceptive methods as possible available both over-the-counter and directly through pharmacies, as California and Oregon have done; and

(G) Other services the commissioner of health deems necessary to improve access to comprehensive family planning options.